

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the present application as follows:

In the Claims

The following is a copy of Applicants' claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("____"), as is applicable:

1. (Currently Amended) In a cable data delivery network for delivering digital data to a host location upon a subscriber initiated request, an apparatus for authenticating that the subscriber is authorized to use said network, said apparatus comprising:

a network manager including at least one database of authorized users and authorized unique identifiers for each of a plurality of authorized data communication devices and a validation agent, said validation agent further comprising:

logic to the subscriber to access a first communications path by comparing first subscriber authentication information received from a data communication device associated with the host location with at least part of the at least one database comprising the authorized users, the first communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the host location and a head end of the cable data delivery network; and

logic to authorize the subscriber to access a second communications path, responsive to the first communications path authorization, by comparing a unique identifier of the data

communication device that is received from the data
communication device with at least part of the at least one
database comprising the authorized unique identifiers for each
of the plurality of data communication devices,
the second communications path providing at least a portion of
connectivity between the host location and the head end of the
cable data delivery network, wherein the second communications
path is uni-directional.

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said first subscriber authentication information includes a subscriber USERID.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said first subscriber authentication information further includes a subscriber password.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said at least one database includes an associated USERID and password for each of said authorized users.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said validation agent authorizes said subscriber to use said first communications path in accordance with a comparison of said subscriber USERID and said subscriber password to USERIDS and passwords stored in said at least one database.

6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said data communication device associated with the host location includes a dial up device that further includes a cable data receiver for receiving said digital data.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said dial up device is uniquely identified by the unique identifier that comprises an electronic identifying number, and wherein the unique identifier that is received from the data communication device includes the electronic identifying number.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said at least one database further includes authorized identifying numbers for each of a plurality of dial up devices including said dial up device.
9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said validation agent authorizes said dial up device to receive said digital data over the second communications path in accordance with a comparison of said identifying number of said dial up device with said identifying numbers stored in said at least one database.
10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first communications path is a public switched telephone network (PSTN) link.
11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first communications path is bi-directional.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the second communications path is a radio frequency (RF) cable link.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of authorizing a subscriber to access a first communications path and a second communications path, the first communications path and the second communications path utilized in conveying data between a head end of a cable data delivery network and a data communication device associated with the subscriber of the cable data delivery network, the method comprising the steps of:

authorizing the subscriber to access the first communications path by comparing first subscriber authentication information received from the data communication device with at least part of at least one database of authorized users, the first communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the data communication device and the head end of the cable data delivery network; and

authorizing the subscriber to access the second communications path, responsive to the first communications path authorization, by a unique identifier of the data communication device that is received from the data communication device, with at least part of the at least one database that further includes authorized unique identifiers for each of a plurality of authorized data communication devices, the second communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the data communication device and the head end of the cable data delivery network, wherein the second communications path is uni-directional.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the first subscriber authentication information comprises a USERID and a password.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the unique identifier of the data communication device comprises an electronic identifying number.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the first communications path is a public switched telephone network (PSTN) link.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the first communications path is bi-directional.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the second communications path is a radio frequency (RF) cable link.
20. - 32. (Canceled)
33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data delivery is restrained until authorization is completed.
34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first subscriber authentication information comprises a password provided to the validation agent by the subscriber and the unique identifier of the data communication device is a number provided to the validation agent by the data communication device associated with the host.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the data conveyance is restrained until authorization is completed.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the first subscriber authentication information comprises a password provided to the head end by the subscriber and the unique identifier of the data communication device is a number provided to the head end by the data communication device associated with the subscriber.

37. – 43 (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the data communications device of the subscriber of the cable data network includes a cable data receiver for receiving said digital data, wherein said data communications device is uniquely identified by the unique identifier.

45. – 47 (Canceled)

48. (New) In a cable data delivery network for delivering digital data to a host location upon a subscriber initiated request, an apparatus for authenticating that the subscriber is authorized to use said network, said apparatus comprising:

a network manager including at least one database of authorized users and authorized unique identifiers for each of a plurality of authorized data communication devices and a validation agent, said validation agent further comprising:

logic to authorize the subscriber to access a first communications path by comparing first subscriber authentication information received from a data communication device associated with the host location with at least part of the at least one database comprising the authorized users, wherein said first subscriber authentication information includes a subscriber USERID and a subscriber password, wherein said at least one database includes an associated USERID and password for each of said authorized users, wherein said validation agent authorizes said subscriber to use said first communications path in accordance with a comparison of said subscriber USERID and said subscriber password to USERIDS and passwords stored in said at least one database,

the first communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the host location and a head end of the cable data delivery network; and

logic to authorize the subscriber to access a second communications path, responsive to the first communications

path authorization, by comparing a unique identifier of the data communication device that is received from the data communication device with at least part of the at least one database comprising the authorized unique identifiers for each of the plurality of data communication devices, the second communications path providing at least a portion of connectivity between the host location and the head end of the cable data delivery network.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein said at least one database further includes authorized identifying numbers for each of a plurality of dial up devices including said dial up device.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said validation agent authorizes said dial up device to receive said digital data over the second communications path in accordance with a comparison of said identifying number of said dial up device with said identifying numbers stored in said at least one database.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the first communications path is a public switched telephone network (PSTN) link.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the first communications path is bi-directional.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the second communications path is a radio frequency (RF) cable link.
54. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the data delivery is restrained until authorization is completed.
55. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the first subscriber authentication information comprises a password provided to the validation agent by the subscriber and the unique identifier of the data communication device is a number provided to the validation agent by the data communication device associated with the host.